

Minutes by J. A. D. McCurdy, from September 21, 1908, to September 26, 1908

A meeting was held on Sept. 20, 21 st 1908, by order of the Chairman, at 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C. at 10 A. M. Present, A. G. Bell, G. H. Curtiss, F. W. Baldwin and J. A. D. McCurdy.

Owing to the death of Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, J. A. D. McCurdy was elected Secretary as his successor.

Special business before the meeting was the framing of th? two resolution in reference to the unfortunate accident at Fort Myer, which caused the death of our late Secretary. The following resolution was decided upon to convey to the parents of Lieut. Selfridge our sympathy in their great loss:—

RESOLVED, that the Aerial Experiment Association place on record our high appreciation of our late Secretary. Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, who met death in his efforts to advance the art of aviation. The Association laments the loss of a dear friend and valued associate; the United States Army loses a valuable and prominent army officer, and the world an ardent student of aviation who made himself familiar with the whole progress of the art in the interests of his native country.

RESOLVED, that a committee be appointed by the Chairman to prepare a biography of our friend, the late Thomas M. Selfridge, for incorporation into the records of the Association.

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the parents of Lieut. Thomas Selfridge.

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Resolution No. 2, which follows, conveys to Mr. Orville Wright the idea that the members of the Association sympathise with him in his grief over the death of Lieut. Selfridge, and hope for a speedy recovery from the injuries sustained by his fall.

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RESOLVED, that the members of the A. E. A. herewith extend to Mr. Orville Wright their deepest sympathy for his grief at the death of their associate, Lieut. Selfridge. We realize that in this pioneering of the air the unforeseen must occasionally be disastrous. We hope sincerely that Mr. Wright will soon recover from the serious injuries he has sustained and continue, in conjunction with his brother Mr. Wilbur Wright, the splendid demonstration to the world of the great possibilities of aerial flight.

The meeting adjourned at 12 A. M. subject to the call of the Chairman.

J. A. D. McCurdy, Secretary.

On Sept. 26th, 1908, a meeting of the Association was held by order of the Chairman at 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C. Members present:— A. Graham Bell, G. H. Curtiss, F. W. Baldwin and J. A. D. McCurdy. Non-members present:— Mr. Edward Selfridge, J. S. Selfridge, S. W. Selfridge, Octave Chanute, G. H. Bell and G. H. Grosvenor.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved.

The Chairman reviewed the conditions which led to the formation of the Association, its work during the past year and the probable plans for the Association in the future.

The Chairman also read an extract from a letter to him from Mrs. Bell in which she expressed so beautifully the place our late Secretary held in her heart.

Mr. Bell requested that a copy of this extract be prepared by the Secretary and transmitted to Mrs. Selfridge.

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The Chairman went on to say that the Association would come to an end on Sept. 30th, 1908, unless, as stipulated by our Constitution, a unanimous vote of the members was obtained which would decide otherwise. He also pointed out that we might have inventions which if of — a patentable nature would have some commercial value and, if so, the interests of the late Lieut. Selfridge would have to be considered in a legal fashion.

Mr. Bell also stated that he had been authorized by Mrs. Bell to say that she would be willing to donate money as wanted by the Association to the limit of \$10,000 more to allow the experiments to be carried on for another period of six months. The following resolution was put and unanimously carried:—

RESOLVED, that the legal representative of the heirs of our deceased member, Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, shall have a right to attend any of the meetings of the Association, and vote at such meetings in the name and stead of the late Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge; and that in all matters requiring the unanimous consent of the members, that the consent of the said representative of the late Thomas E. Selfridge shall be required.

RESOLVED, that the Association recognize Mr. Edward A. Selfridge of No. 2615 California St., San Francisco, Cal. as the legal representative of the late Thomas E. Selfridge.

In voting upon the resolution which follows, an individual vote was taken, Mr. Selfridge voting for the late Thomas E. Selfridge:

RESOLVED:—that that the Aerial Experiment Association be continued under its present organization for another period of six months, ending March 31, '09.

The vote was unanimous, all being aye's.

The Chairman next brought up the matter of the appointment of a trustee. There was considerable discussion on this point, and finally it was moved by Mr. McCurdy, and seconded by Mr. Curtiss, that the following resolution be put:

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RESOLVED, that Mr. Charles J. Bell, President of the American Security and Trust Co., be appointed trustee of the Aerial Experiment Association to receive and distribute the proceeds of the work of the Association in accordance with the articles of agreement of organization, and of resolutions of the Association.

An individual vote was taken and the resolution unanimously carried.

The Chairman next referred to an article prepared and written by Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge for publication in one of the bulletins of the Association, and thought that it would be a good idea to have it published in book form for the information of the general public. Mr. Selfridge agreed to this providing that he could be reasonably assured that the statements made by Lieut. Selfridge in his article were correct, so that there would be no room for criticism which would be unpleasant.

The Secretary suggested that Mr. Chanute be asked to look it over with a view of correcting any statements as to facts which were perhaps a little wrong.

Mr. Chanute kindly consented to do this.

It was moved by Mr. Curtiss, and seconded by Mr. Baldwin, that the headquarters of the Association be returned to Beinn Bhreagh, Nova Scotia, on October 1st, 1908. Carried.

A motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair was put and unanimously carried.

Adjourned at 12:30 P. M.

J. A. D. McCurdy, Secretary.